

**From:** pcameron@CrescentNetworks.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 6:46pm  
**Subject:** Comments on settlement in Microsoft antitrust case

Your Honor,

I am a computer software professional with 30 years experience. I live in Winchester MA.

The software industry has been suffering through lack of competition for a long time now. Without choice there is little need for innovation. I am very disturbed that even though many hardware companies compete to make the hardware better and less expensive. There is effectively one operating system and application software company, Microsoft, and they have become less and less willing to advance technology unless they see a competitor. They are, however, always willing to increase price by more than inflation from release to release. It is very difficult to purchase a non-Apple desktop or laptop system without also purchasing a Microsoft operating system. There is effectively no choice.

What we have now is an industry that has grown stagnant and a company, Microsoft, that has grown rich. I am sure that business and economics professionals can lay out the damage to the industry in great detail. So I won't even try.

I appeal to you to return competition to the software industry and to return the monopoly profits to the consumers. Laws have been broken and people have suffered. Please find a way to prevent further unlawful behavior and find a way to compensate victims.

I offer some ideas that I think would work.

1) Remove the current officers, executives and board of directors of Microsoft and render their stock nonvoting. Prevent them from participating in the computing industry in any capacity for at least 5 years.

2) Divide the company into perhaps 4 new companies. Each company would be the largest in its business sector and would enjoy the strength that comes with its size. It would not, however, enjoy a monopoly in that sector:

- a) Operating systems, tools and utilities (include the browser)
- b) Application software - office suites etc.
- c) Internet services (no software development or sales, no hardware product sales)
- d) Hardware - xbox game console, keyboards, mice, internet appliances, set top boxes, etc. - products with embedded software only, no services.

3) Make all file formats and communications protocols public standards that may be implemented by anyone without royalty and do not permit future private protocols and file formats.

4) Vacate all Microsoft contracts that limit a companies ability to deal with other companies. E.g., prevents a hardware OEM from selling some systems with non-Microsoft OS or even dual boot systems or prevents a software company from porting software products to other systems.

5) Require Microsoft to rebate all their monopoly derived profit directly back to consumers. Double the amount as a damages.

There is a lot at stake here. There are few opportunities to effectively deal with monopoly behavior. This is an opportunity to get competition back into the software industry and still permit an important and major corporation, Microsoft, to participate as a significant force. Everyone, even Microsoft, will win if you can reestablish competition and prevent future unlawful behavior.

With the utmost respect for yourself and our judicial system,  
Most sincerely,  
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